



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 18 Years in Kitchen Contracting Fraud Case

Herman Hinojosa was sentenced to 18 years in prison Tuesday for defrauding customers of his remodeling business, Kitchens 4 Less.

“This case exemplifies the need for specialized economic crime units to investigate and prosecute fraudulent contractors who take advantage of the public,” District Attorney Dave Young said. “It is illegal for contractors to take a customer’s money up front and not use it for their project. That is theft. I hope this case sends a message to the community and contractors like Hinojosa that this kind of conduct will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted by our office to the full extent of the law.”

“These people trusted you and you violated that trust,” Adams County District Judge Robert Kiesnowski told Hinojosa at his sentencing hearing. “A maximum aggravated sentence is warranted because of the number of victims and the extent of harm to the victims who were hardworking folks who just wanted some work done in their homes and it didn’t happen.”

Hinojosa (DOB 06/24/44) and his wife, Susan Hinojosa, were charged in 2014 with 30 counts of theft and check fraud for taking funds for kitchen remodeling projects that were not done. Susan Hinojosa was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$100,848.38 in restitution. More than 30 individuals and businesses were defrauded by the Hinojosas.

Hinojosa promised discount remodels but demanded money up front. Once that was paid, the jobs were partially completed or not done at all. Some customers were left without working kitchens for months, while Hinojosa made multiple excuses about why work was delayed. He used the payments for personal expenses instead of paying for materials and contractors to perform the work. Many victims who lost money to Hinojosa could not afford to pay more to complete them.

“There are individuals here who still don’t have kitchens,” Kiesnowski said. “When you defraud people like this, the ripples are everlasting, frankly.”

One of the victims told the judge that she is still paying loans for a kitchen that Hinojosa left unfinished. “Herman Hinojosa used my faith to gain my trust,” she said. “He robbed me of my

money and peace of mind and my belief in humanity.”

Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso argued for the aggravated sentence due to the amount of losses to the victims and Hinojosa’s long criminal history of “deceit, fraud and theft.” She said Hinojosa was on supervised release on a federal bank fraud conviction when he moved to Colorado and defrauded customers at his kitchens business, “Then, while he was on bond in this case, he used his charm and wit and deceptive practices to commit more crimes.”

Herman Hinojosa pleaded guilty to one count of felony theft from an at-risk elder (F3). On Friday he was sentenced as a habitual offender to 12 years in prison in two other Adams County cases on charges of theft, forgery and check fraud in connection with his deposit of two fraudulent \$5 million checks at financial institutions in Rifle. The two sentences will be concurrent. All three cases were prosecuted by the Economic Crime Unit of the District Attorney’s Office.

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